

WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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September 21, 2023

Monthly Board Meeting

Chairperson Philippi called the Board meeting to order on September 21, 2023, at 9:03 a.m. at the Columbia Improvement District meeting room located at 501 E. Columbia Ave. in Boardman. Those in attendance were: Board members, Dalarie Philippi, Vern Frederickson, Von Studer, Bob Mueller and Abe McNamee; Board Secretary/Manager, Bev Bridgewater; Administrative Services Manager, Lisa Baum; Chet Sater, Manager of the Bureau of Reclamation Umatilla Field Office. Water user, Ragna Ten Eyck was in attendance.

AGENDA: An updated agenda was distributed. Chairperson Philippi asked for additions to the agenda. Mueller moved to accept the agenda as presented. McNamee seconded. Motion passed.

INTRODUCTIONS: Introductions were made.

MONTHLY BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Frederickson moved to approve the minutes of the July Board meeting. Mueller seconded. Discussion. Motion passed.

BILLS PAYABLE: Frederickson moved to approve the July accounts payable list in the amount of \$155,333.77 and the August account payable list in the amount of \$109,129.30. Mueller seconded. Motion passed.

FINANCIALS: The Board reviewed the financial reports for the current year through July 31 2023 and proforma budget report for the remainder of the year. Discussion. The Board also discussed work planned for the main canal.

- 1) CANAL STUDY:** The Board discussed several areas of drainage issues along the canal in Boardman, specifically Gattenbein corner, east and west of Paul Smith Road and the area around Donovan Meadows. Liner seems the best option to protect damage to the canal in this area. Drainage pipe would need to be installed. Abe mentioned pumping water back into the canal using solar-powered pumps. He felt that a six-inch drain pipe would be used in these areas, from his experience. The Board discussed timing for this work, recalling the BIL for Gattenbein Corner. Was this work that the WEID crew is able to do? It is. How much can we get done this winter? They directed

management to get lining prices and delivery times. Discussion lasted for 20 minutes.

- 2) RELOCATION CANAL:** The District is getting ready to order the gates for the work planned on the Relocation Canal this winter. Installation of three gates will help manage the water and better control the endspill. Frederickson explained how it would work. McNamee pointed out there will still be a spill, which is true. Reaction time for delivery changes would be shorter with the gates and SCADA on this canal. The Board would like to know the cost of piping this lateral before ordering the gates. Discussion lasted 10 minutes.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

The Board reviewed the Manager's report. It is attached to and a part of the meeting minutes.

OPERATIONS: Anticipated Shut off dates were given – Oct. 17 for Irrigon and Oct. 27 for the main canal. McNamee wanted to know if the mainline in Irrigon can run longer for his properties. We need a minimum of 4 cfs to keep the system running efficiently, so we would need enough folks to stay on.

OSHA CONSULTATION– October 24. Brief discussion.

ADMINISTRATIVE: Lisa reported that she is looking at hiring a part-time bookkeeper. Discussion. Is there room in the budget. Bridgewater stated, Yes. We've known that as Lisa steps more into Administrative Management, she will need to give up some of the bookkeeping responsibilities. There is money in the budget for this position.

Lisa reported that she will start working on collections.

MANAGER REPORT:

LANDOWNER MEETING: Bridgewater reported on the Landowner meeting held on Tuesday. There were 12 families representing landowners between Peters Road and West of Toms Camp; water users off Laterals 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30 were invited. WEID presented maps of the areas and how the new pipeline/pump station would work, such as deliveries to each parcel, how much water, increased pumping costs, timeline. NRCS stated how their program works, the funding, eligibility, technical assistance and timelines. Discussion was lively with lots of questions. Landowners were interested, engaged and had questions. They met with NRCS and WEID after the presentation. The landowners for the first project – Pump Station 25 began their paperwork and plan to be ready to pressurize for the 2024 season. Discussion.

RECLAMATION DISTRICT AUDIT: Bridgewater and Sater reported that the five-year or so audit was held viz Zoom on September 26. Good discussion and no issue. Ragna Ten Eyck left the meeting at 10:20 am.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive session was called at 10:21 am in accordance with ORS 192.660 (2) (i) to conduct an employee performance evaluation. Executive session ended at 10:45 a.m.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

BRIDGE CROSSINGS: Bridge ownership doesn't change often, but it does happen. happening and we don't always know about ownership changes, especially where there are multiple owners or an LLC, since most don't have water rights. Bridgewater stated at least two bridges are owned by Dewey West who may not even be alive. She wanted to consider a small administrative fee to keep everyone up to date. Discussion. The Board is more concerned about capacity on the bridges. They are not posted, Are some out of compliance. Should we have them inspected? How would that cost be covered and who would do the inspection?

Abe McNamee left the meeting at 11:00 am.

DIRECTOR TERM AND ELECTION: One position is open and District election date (second Tuesday in November by statute) is coming up. Nominating petitions are due October 10, 2023. Position is:

Division One: Three-year term.. Bob Mueller is current director.

MOTION: Frederickson moved to hold the District election on Nov. 14, to start looking for judges and to do a mail-in election. Studer seconded. Motion passed.

CITY OF IRRIGON MEETING: Reclamation and WEID will attend the City of Irrigon Council meeting on October 17. Discussion.

CITY OF IRRIGON LETTER/LAND PURCHASE: The District reviewed a letter from the City of Irrigon wherein the lot behind the office may be surplus and a portion of it is offered to the District, The Board reviewed the letter. Frederickson moved to make a formal request to the City of Irrigon for purchase of a portion of tax lot 2601 in the amount of \$7950 and to begin the process of rezoning the lot and replating WEID's current property. Studer seconded. Discussion. The City outlined the process quite well in Manager Palmquist's letter. Motion passed. Bridgewater was directed to contact the City and start the process.

COMMUNICATION TOWER: The Board would like to find options in place of a 50-foot tower behind the office. Discussion. Bridgewater will discuss the issue with Cecil Rock and Aqua Systems.

OTHER BUSINESS

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN: Sater reported that the government may shut down October 1. If so, all employees are off except the pump techs. The remote access to the pumping plants will go off September 30. WEID is asked to make any operational changes in the Phase One plant in the mornings. Discussion.

LISA BAUM PAY: Mueller moved to change Lisa Baum’s pay status from annual to hourly. The rate is \$30, based on her current pay scale. Frederickson seconded. Discussion. The change will start October 1. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairperson Philippi adjourned the meeting at 11:25 am.

Signed:

Bev Bridgewater, Secretary

Attest:

Dalarie Philippi, Chairperson